

Response to Office Action
U S Serial No. 09/990,044
Page 2 of 7

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sterilizing articles, comprising:
a chamber for receiving articles to be sterilized, the chamber being capable of receiving a predetermined volume of liquid;
a heater for heating liquid in said chamber to form steam;
a pressure sensor in communication with said chamber, and
a control mechanism, wherein the pressure of steam inside said chamber is sensed by said pressure sensor, and said control mechanism maintains the steam at a predetermined pressure until an end of a sterilization cycle;
wherein at least two pressure sensors are provided, each said pressure sensor operable to select different predetermined pressures to be maintained during sterilization of articles within the chamber, thereby enabling the sterilization of the articles to be carried out at one of at least two different predetermined temperatures.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heater is adapted to be cycled on and off by said control mechanism during the sterilization cycle to maintain the predetermined pressure of steam.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said pressure sensor is a valve operable at a predetermined pressure.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said control mechanism includes a timer.